ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rev. W. S. BROWN
Florence Baptist Church

MINUTES

OF THE

Eleventh Annual Session

OF THE

Florence Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Florence Baptist Church

Florence, Alabama, August 5 and 6, 1898

With Statistical Table of the Tenth
Minutes of that Session not being printed

W. S. BROWN
Moderator

R. E. PAULK
Clerk

REAPER PRINT, SHEFFIELD.

MINUTES

—:OF THE:—

Florence Baptist Association

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5, 1898

This Association convened with the Florence Baptist Church, Friday, August 5, 1898.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W. S. Brown.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Upon motion the clerk was requested to print the statistics of the last meeting with the minutes of the present session.

Letters were read, and delegates received, from the following churches:

Union Grove—B. G. Gray, Mrs. M L. Gray, John English, Mrs. John English, Samuel Muse, Mrs. Samuel Muse, Elza Muse and Cassander Urban.

Liberty—C. S. W. Paulk, A. P. Dulen, L. D. Rutledge, R. E. Paulk and John L. Austin.

Florence—W. S. Brown, H. C. Gilbert, John T. Ashcraft, Mrs. B. G. Eastburn, Mrs. W. S. Brown, D. L. Garrett, J. A. Huff, D. R. Evans, Miss Maud Evans and Miss Nettie Hallman.

Bluff Creek—J. W. Cannon as a delegate but no letter.

Rev. W. S. Brown was re-elected Moderator, and R. E. Paulk was elected clerk and treasurer.

After announcement by Bro. John T. Ashcrafr, Chairman of Entertainment Committee, the Association adjourned to meet again at 3 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After the meeting was called to order, Bro. A. J. Ivie and Bro. A. P. Smith, of Colbert Association, were introduced and given the privilege of the floor. Bro. Ivie responded in a few words of encouragement concerning the Association.

The following report of the Committee on Temperance was read and approved, after discussion by Brethren Gilbert, Jackson, Brown and Ivie :

There is a growing interest in this question. Many of our railroad companies now refuse men who drink while either on or off duty. In political life it is becoming more and more the custom of good, conscientious voters to denounce the placing of men of known intemperate habits into office. God speed the day when no man who drinks intoxicating spirits will dare ask for the votes of his countrymen. It is a strong point against a man who applies to a reputable company for life insurance if he is addicted even to the moderate use of intoxicants. Possibly the strongest proof of the growing interest against intemperance is the fact, that, at the last session of Congress, a motion was made, and a strong effort put forth, to abolish the "Congressional Bar," which has ever been a blot and disgrace to our Nation. All these are not mere expressions of sentiment, but practical evidences of moral development. We will not speak of the suffering, want, shame, disgrace and terrible disasters that have fallen upon us in National, state and family relations because of this monster evil, but will leave that for the general discussion. We pray God's blessings to rest upon all workers in the great cause of temperance, and may the day soon come when by National prohibition all intoxicating liquors shall be banished from our beloved land.

Respectfully,

H. C. Gilbert,
John English,
A. P. Dulen.

A letter from Rev. W. J. N. Wylie was read by H. C. Gilbert and all the members of the Association were informed of Bro. Wylie's affiicted condition and financial aid asked for him.

The following summary statement was made from the letters: (See Statistical Table.)

Rev. W. S. Brown was appointed to preach at 8 p. m.

At this service a collection, amounting to Two ($2.00) Dollars, was taken for the relief of Rev. W. J. N. Wylie.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order at 10 a. m. by the Moderator.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Samuel Muse.

Bro. C. A. Womble, of Colbert Association, was introduced.

The Committee on Obituaries reported the following deaths since last August: J. M. Gray, Union Grove; Dr. L. F. Duckett, Florence; Miss Lillian Rikard, Florence. Mrs. Bettie Ballentine, Liberty. Discussion by Brethren Gilbert, Ivie, Brown and Womble.

The following reports of the several Committees on Missions were read, and discussed by Brethren C. S. W. Paulk, Gilbert, Brown, Ashcraft and Ivie:

We, your Committee on Associational Missions, beg to state that we have had no missionary; and, therefore, we have no associational money. Respectfully, C. S. W. Paulk,
W. S. Brown.

We, your Committee on State Missions, beg leave to make the following report: The seventy-seven Associations in the state have been divided into six districts, into each of which the State Board has placed an evangelist. These brethren have traveled almost all over the destitute territory in the state and have done a great work. However, there remains a great deal yet to be done before our churches can be developed into real missionary bodies. We hope to see the contributions to this department of our work so greatly increased that we will, very soon, have no destitution in the state.

Respectfully submitted, B. G. Gray,
C. S. W. Paulk,
L. D. Rutledge.

We, your committee on Home Missions, beg to submit the following report: The Home Mission Field comprises all the Southern and Western States and Territories and Cuba. Many destitute places exist where souls are perishing for want of The Bread of Life, and where there are no neighboring churches able to reach them. In the bounds of our own Association there are destitute places, but surely if the churches of Lauderdale County will comprehend their duty these hungry souls at our doors may be given That Word which is The Bread of Life, and be organized into healthy, happy workers for those whom Christ loves. The home field calls for broader views and a nobler conception. It calls for love and contribution and sacrifice for those whom we have not seen. The present war with Spain may very much enlarge the scope of the work of the home field and ultimately call for a new board. Already Hawaii has been added to our western domain; Cuba is soon to be brought into closer relations; Porto Rico must be cared for, and it seems that the Luzons and Ladrones are to become our fellow countrymen. So long as it was not sure that America would come into control of these great domains, the Pope used all his powers to destroy American influence with these people; but now that we practically have them, the Pope is assuring them that their church privileges will not be disturbed. This is true; but, the Pope and his church have been largely instrumental in keeping these poor people in mental and moral darkness and physical suffering for centuries. It is our duty to teach them the beauty of liberty and the holiness of love, and secure their patriotic help in our own growth toward the more perfect life. To accomplish this end we must increase our contributions to the Home Mission Board, and then, too, we must be patient and charitable toward their faults. We must remember that the moral life cannot be forced. The history of these people illustrates this proposition. The inquisitions, the tortures, the suppression of the Bible and other literature by the Catholic Church have kept these people Catholics, but it has not made them noble. Baptists should carry them their conservative teachings, their tender love, and the blessed life of Christ.

Respectfully submitted, JOHN T. ASHCRAFT,
B. G. GRAY.

We, your committee on Foreign Missions, beg to submit the following report: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations," is our Master's command. This does not mean for us to wait for these

strangers to come to our doors, but for us to go to them. Following out this injunction we have now missionaries in the field as follows: Brazil, 10; Mexico, 15; Japan, 6; China, 39; Africa, 7; Italy, 3. Amount expended by the Foreign Mission Board during the last year, $125,000—of which Alabama has credit of $6,000. There is a demand for yet greater effort on our part. The call is a personal one. Let us heed it and thus fulfill our duty as becometh loyal citizens of Christ's kingdom.

H. C. Gilbert,
Dr L. F. Duckett,
R. E. Paulk.

Upon motion a committee was appointed to consult with the brethren from Colbert and report upon the advisability of a union of the two Associations.

The Association then adjourned to meet again at 3 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The following report of the Committee on Union of the Associations was read and adopted:

"We, your Committee on the Consolidation or Co-operation of the Florence and Colbert Association, beg to report as follows: "We recommend that the two Associations unite under the name of the Colbert Shoals Association.* We recognize the fact that in union there is strength. We recommend the appointment of a visiting committee to report this action to the Colbert Association, which, if accepted, will be considered final. If rejected, this Association may continue as heretofore, Respectfully, H. C. Gilbert,
W. S. Brown,
C. S. W. Paulk.

The Moderator appointed the following as a visiting committee: H. C. Gilbert, John T. Ashcraft and C. S. W. Paulk.

The following reports on Sunday-Schools, Woman's Work, and the Baptist Young People's Union were read, and after brief discussions, adopted:

*Note.—Colbert Shoals was suggested instead of Colbert simply to avoid the erroneous impression that the Association was confined to Colbert County.

The Sunday-School is the nursery of the church. In the nursery of the home we exert ourselves to train most carefully both mind and body of those who constitute its members. There are no particulars of their proper education too small to receive our most careful attention, Should not those who constitute the members of the nursery of the Church of God receive at least equally careful attention. We are glad to note that the interest along this line, in this branch of the great work of salvation, is on the increase. More and more it is being recognized that the members of the Sunday-School, in late years, make up largely the membership of the church. Therefore, in order to have a live, spiritual church, growing, and doing efficient work for the Master in the future, we must educate and properly train the members of the Sunday-School, from whom the church largely draws her converts. "Train a child up in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Respectfully submitted, JOHN T. ASHCRAFT,
J. A. HUFF,
B. M. JACKSON.

The Baptist Young People's Union is a part of the great scheme of church work and education. The object is to interest the young people especially, who are in the church, in Christian labor. Knowing that in order to have efficient work done for the Master there must be knowledge of that work in the laborers, the minds of those to whom the success of the cause is dear, have been much exercised as to the best methods to be used to gain that end. This society is the outcome of thought along this line. The members of this society are to be like the servants of a honsehold. They are to be well trained for their work: that of aids to the pastor in his church labors, and, when trained, the pastor may send them on errands of mercy and love among his congregation, and even into the mission work of his home field. There is always work for those who are competent to perform it, and the pastor, who, in nearly all cases, has more than he can properly attend to, finds relief and pleasure in the fact that he can trust some of the church work to these young hands. The question naturally arises: are we educating the members of our B. Y. P. U. in this direction? Or, are we only in a half-hearted way conducting the meetings indifferently, with only the thought that it is one of the organizations of the church to be endured and hurried through as quickly as possible with as little cost to ourselves as may be, and as little

thought and effort on our part as will let us out without danger of complaint against us for neglect of duty? Who is on the Lord's side? Not nominally so, but vigorously, earnestly, pushingly so. Such as these are needed for the work of the Lord in all its branches.

Your committee respectfully submit this report.

B. M. JACKSON.

We, you committee on Woman's Work, beg to submit the following report: We learn from experience and observation that the progress and advancement of church work is very materially increased by the active co-operation of the women. Where there is an earnest working organization of Christian sisters. under the instruction and guidance of their pastor, good results invariably follow, not only in extending financial aid to the church and the different boards of our convention, but also in the spiritual uplifting and love one toward another. In cases of financial depression, and the consequent discouragement in the various departments of church work, we know of no method or remedy better calculated to arouse drooping energies and life of the church, than a wide awake, sympathetic, organized band of sisters who are willing and ever ready to come to the assistance of the church to help it out of its difficulties. Wonderful is the progress made by the women, of the Baptist churches of our Southland, in developing missionary spirit and interest, since the organization of the Woman's Missionary Union ten years ago. It has given an impetus that seems almost without parallel. Every church feels the need of a Woman's Aid Society in the many lines of their work—work for which God has given them special endowment. Now, sisters, since our Heavenly Father, has given us talents with which to work in the vineyard, He will hold us responsible for our indifference and neglect. We are ashamed to acknowledge how little we are doing for him in our Association, but we pray that God will speed the day of increased interest and activity among the women of our Association and state. Respectfully submitted,

MRS. EASTBURN,
MRS. BROWN,
MRS. GREY,
MRS. HALLMAN,
MISS MAUD EVANS.

The report of Finance Committee showed that Liberty Church

had sent $1.05 for minutes and Union Grove $ .95. The Florence Church, in addition to the home expenses of the Association, agreed to pay whatever balance should be necessary in order to have the minutes printed. Total amount in treasury, $12.29.

Rev. W. S. Brown was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The future course of the Association, should it fail to unite with the Colbert Association, was left hands of the Executive Committee.

R. E. Paulk,
Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive—W. S. Brown, H. C. Gilbert, B. G. Gray, John T. Ashcraft, C. S. W. Paulk.

Temperance—John T. Ashcraft, J. W. Cannon, A. P. Dulin.

Obituaries—John L. Austin, Samuel Muse, H. C. Gilbert.

Associational Missions—C. S. W. Paulk, Joe Wesson, W. S. Brown.

State Missons—H. C. Gilbert, B. G. Gray, Cassander Urban.

Home Missions—W. S. Brown, B. E. Jackson, L. D. Rutledge.

Foreign Missions—L. D. Rutledge, R. E. Paulk, John English.

Woman's Work—Mrs. Nettie Hallman, B. G. Eastman, Mrs. L. F. Duckett.

Sunday School—John T. Ashcraft, D. L. Garrett, J. A. Huff.

B. Y. P. U.—B. M. Jackson, R. E, Paulk, Ray S. Fleming.

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1897-8.

Name of Church.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's P. O.	No. Last Report	Increase.				Decrease.				Present Membership	Sunday School.		Contributions.						
					Baptism	Letter	Statement	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death		Officers and Teachers	No. of Pupils	State Missions	Home Missons	Foreign Missions.	Church Expenses.	S.-S. Literature	Minutes	Indigent Ministers
Florence	W. S. Brown	A. B. Mason	Florence	187	35	17	...	...	13	...	4	2	220	10	116	$ 1 25	$ 4 88	$ 85	$705 73	$61 05	$	$ .....
*East Florence Mission	W. S. Brown	A. B. Mason	Florence	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	8	162	.....	.....	.....	588 00	.....	.....	.....
Union Grove	F. G. Posey	CassanderUrban	Atlas	61	4	..	..	..	3	1	...	1	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 09	.....	95	.....
Liberty	R. S. Fleming	J. L. Austin	Threet	88	15	...	5	...	1	1	1	1	104	.....	.....	7 05	6 00	3 00	127 50	.....	1 05	10 00
Martindale	B. F. Wilson	E. J. Baggett	Rodgersville	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

STATISTICS FOR 1896-7.

Florence	W. S. Brown	A. B. Mason	Florence	138	51	13	..	...	8	2	3	2	187	12	130	12 60	12 08	5 32	776 31	.....	.....	.....
Liberty	James Evans	J. L. Austin	Threet	94	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	88	6	30	16 00	.....	.....	100 00	.....	.....	.....
Union Grove	F. G. Porey	CassanderUrban	Atlas	53	8	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20 30	.....	95	.....
Pilgrim's Rest	W. J. N. Wylie	J. L. McIntyre	Oakland	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 30	.....	.....	.....

*The members of East Florence Mission belong to the Florence church. A chapel has been built there costing over $600.00.

No reports from Bluff Creek, Brush Creek, or Pilgrim's Rest, for 1898.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. S. Brown, Florence. W. J. N. Wylie, Gravelly Springs. J. A. Weems, Center Star.

F. G. Posey, Lexington. B. F. Wilson, Covington. Ray S. Fleming, Tuscumbia.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call to order.
2. Devotional Exercises.
3. Reading of Church Letters.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Receiving Visitors and Correspondents.
7. Annual Sermon.
8. Appointment of the following Committees, (others if necessary):—(a) Devotional; (b) Finance.
9. Reading the Constitution.
10. Reports of Standing and Other Committee:—(a) Obituaries; (b) Temperance; (c) Missions—Associational, State, Home, Foreign; (d) Sunday-School; (e) Woman's Work; (f) Executive; (g) Finance.
11. Treasurer's Report.
12. Selection time and place of next meeting.
13. Election of Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
14. Appointment of Corresponding Delegates.
15. Election of Preacher to Deliver Next Annual Sermon.
16. Resolutions of Courtesy and Miscellaneous Business.
17. Adjournment.